

TESTIMONY OF Kal Patel Owner, Meadowbrook Manor & Essex Village Manor, LLC
IN OPPOSITION TO
HB 6350- AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND
OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Kal Patel. I am the Owner/Administrator of Meadowbrook Manor and Essex Village Manor, LLC. I am unable to attend but want to offer my strong opposition to the Governor's Budget, specifically the capping of residential care home rates and elimination of the small partial rate increase from last year.

I have been an owner operator of these facilities since December 2006. Our primary purpose is to provide a safe, clean, and stable home for some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Many of our residents are mentally disabled who require the supervision and support our home provides. These residential and supervisory services are provided at a great cost savings to the state of Connecticut. We provide residence with 24 hour staff supervision, med supervision, housekeeping, breakfast, lunch, dinner, recreation, and physical plant maintenance for approximately \$2600 per month. The sad truth here is that the amount it costs to care for our residents (utilities, employment cost, food, property upkeep and insurance) have gone up over the past few years but my rate has remained the same \$2600. The vast majority of our employees who make a modest working wage had to take a pay freeze. I've had to increase their health insurance contributions. We've had to postpone repairs that need to be done.

Many national and local political leaders have said it's wrong to balance the budget on the backs of our most vulnerable or the working class members of our society. Well I must say that our homes have mainly working class employees caring for the most vulnerable members of our society. It is time for the State of Connecticut to recognize the value we bring and to do away with the rate cap for a chance of survival.

Thank you, for the opportunity to voice my concerns,

Respectfully,

Kal Patel
Essex Village Manor, LLC/
Meadowbrook Manor, LLC
59 south Main Street
Essex Ct 06409

(860) 767 2613